

For Administrative Purposes Only
LOS ANGELES CITY Health department

Feb. 10, 1955

To: Mr. Earl E. Crandell, Acting Supervisor
Food ~~xxxx~~ Sanitation

From: F.A. Listick

Subject: Additional Information on Suspected Food Poisoning at
San Fernando Valley Labor Association, 10800 Sepulveda Blvd.

Investigation revealed that out of 30 men interviewed, 18 had been ill with symptoms of food poisoning. 15 persons had diarrhea, 13 vomited, 11 had cramps, 11 had nausea, 5 had hot and cold chills and one person complained of dizziness... The average onset time was about 4½ hours... The duration of illness in most cases was under 12 hours.

The attack rates for the foods eaten, point toward the beef taco as the suspected food.

Bean taco:	$\frac{18}{30}$	111 who ate bean taco	= 60%
Mexican bread:	$\frac{18}{29}$		= 62%
Beef taco:	$\frac{18}{28}$		= 64%

Food Preparation: Beef taco

Meat (chuck) from Allied Meat Company was delivered on Monday, 2/7/55, and put into a walk-in refrigerator (32° F). On 2/9/55 at 1:30 a.m. the meat was taken out of the walk-in and chopped. Tomato puree and chili were added while the meat was cooking. After cooling about 2 hours the tacos were made and put into the lunch bags. At 6:00 a.m. the men picked up their lunch bags and went into the field. Lunch was eaten at 12:00 noon. At this time the men warmed their taco over an open fire in the field. This allowed an incubation period of approximately 8 hours.

Food Handlers:

None of the Food Handlers stated a history of recent illness. No infections were noticed on the hands of the Food Handlers, but their personal hygiene was not what it should be, fingernails were long and dirty.

Mr. Cram, Manager of the Labor Camp was informed that their present method of serving perishable foods to the men in the field was inadequate. Several suggestions were made to Mr. Cram regarding methods of keeping perishable foods at temperatures below 50 F or above 140 F.

The laboratory report stated that coagulase positive, hemolytic staphylococcus aureus were found in the three types of samples, bean taco, beef taco and Mexican pastry. Contamination appeared to be heaviest in the beef taco and lightest in the Mexican pastry.

Health Insurance

Feb. 10, 1955

Memo to Mr. Feichtmeir, Informational

Re: Outbreak of food poisoning at the San Fernando Valley camp on
2/9/55

Data as follows: ...By 5:30 p.m. the number of men down was 37.

At this time our Clinic was called and a doctor and one nurse dispatched with medicine from the pharmacy, as listed in their billing to you... This included streptomycin, penicillin, paregoric, milk of bismuth, and etc.

All of the men received 1 injection of streptomycin and 1 injection of penicillin.

Dramamine, 1/4 cc. was given to those with severe vomiting, or a total of about 30 cc being used.

Also, about 10 of the men received 10 grs. of sodium luminol intramuscularly because of the severe cramps.

Also, in addition to that, demerol, 25 mg. was given to 4 of the men because of pain and severe cramps.

Some of the men were also given a tablespoonful of a preparation consisting of paregoric and milk of bismuth, equal parts of each. 12 ounces of this preparation, taken from our pharmacy, was left at the camp to be used by the men during the night, if needed.

Also a preparation of aluminum hydroxide, tr. bella donna, and phenobarbital which was already there at the camp was to be used in the prescribed doses, if needed.

2 signed prescriptions for paregoric and milk of bismuth were left, to be obtained at the local pharmacy if the diarrhea persisted.

... One man, because of the severity of symptoms was brought in at 11 o'clock and remained at our Clinic quarters. He was seen on this date, 2/19/55, much improved. He was given streptomycin and sent back to his camp.

Doctor's time consumed was from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. as well as that of the nurse, whom he took with him... The equivalent of medical cost exclusive of the drugs used, is \$100.00 including the services of the doctor and nurse... Drug bill will be sent you direct from the pharmacy.

I mention this so that you may keep in on file in case you feel this is a food poisoning on a public liability basis.

Thank you.

Francisco Bravo, M.D.